

REMARKS

Status of claims:

Claim 9 has been canceled. Claims 10-17 and 22-29 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 1, 5, 8, 18, and 21 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-8 and 18-21 are presently pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of the presently pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claim objections:

Claims 5-7, 9, and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter. Independent Claim 1 was amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5, claim 8 was amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 9, and claim 18 was amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 21. No new matter was added. Amended claim 1 now recites "a second rowbar substrate having a transducing surface and a gap surface; at least one thin film transducer on the gap surface of the second rowbar substrate, said thin film transducer forming a portion of said transducing surface; and a second closure covering said thin film transducer on a side thereof opposite said gap surface of said second rowbar substrate wherein said second closure is opposite to, spaced from, and facing said first closure." Claims 8 and 18 were similarly amended. Allowance of the presently pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections:

Claims 1-4, 8, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biskeborn et al., US Patent No. 5,905,613. As noted above, independent Claims 1, 8, and 18 have been amended to claim the allowable subject matter of dependant claims 5, 9, and 21, respectively.

Amended claim 1 now claims a second rowbar substrate having a transducing surface and a gap surface, at least one thin film transducer on the gap surface of the second rowbar substrate, the thin film transducer forming a portion of the transducing surface, and a second closure covering the thin film transducer on a side thereof opposite the gap surface, the second closure is opposite to, spaced from, and facing said first closure.” Independent claim 8 and claim 18 have been similarly amended. Accordingly, claim 1, claim 8, and claim 18 are believed to be patentable over the cited reference. Allowance of the amended claims is requested.

Claims 2-4 depended from independent Claim 1, now believed to be in condition for allowance, and further define the patentable subject matter thereof. Accordingly, claims 1-4 are allowable due to their dependency from an allowable base claim. Allowance of Claims 1-4 is respectfully requested.

Claims 19 and 20 depend from allowable independent Claim 18 and further define the patentable subject matter thereof. Accordingly, claims 19 and 20 are allowable due to their dependency from an allowable base claim. Allowance of Claims 19 and 20 is respectfully requested.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 927-3387. For payment of any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0466.

Respectfully submitted,

By: ___/Jeffrey P. Aiello _____

Jeffrey P. Aiello
Reg. No. 39,086

Intellectual Property Law
Systems & Technology Group
IBM
650 Harry Road
San Jose, California 95120
Telephone: (408) 927-3387
Facsimile: (408) 927-3375